



Small business owners. Small business values.

April 11, 2013

Rep. Tim Walberg, Chairman
Subcommittee on Workforce Protections
House Education & Workforce Committee

Rep. Joe Courtney, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Workforce Protections
House Education & Workforce Committee

Cc: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections members

Re: Small business opposition to the “Working Families Flexibility Act of 2013” (H.R. 1406)

Dear Chairman Walberg, Ranking Member Courtney, and members of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections,

On behalf of the Main Street Alliance, we write in regard to the “Working Families Flexibility Act of 2013” (H.R. 1406) introduced today in the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

While “flexibility” sounds good in theory, the only flexibility this bill will provide is for unscrupulous employers to cut overtime pay, taking money out of their employees’ pockets, undercutting responsible competitors, and undermining consumer purchasing power in local economies. As small business owners, we urge you to oppose this bill.

The Main Street Alliance is a national network of local, independent small businesses across all sectors of the economy. Our members are auto shop owners, restaurant owners, family farmers, delivery companies, cabinet makers, remodeling companies, child care providers, and more. We are real, Main Street small businesses and we support policies that benefit small businesses and boost local economies.

In survey after survey since the onset of the financial crisis in 2008, small business owners have repeatedly identified our number one need: more customers. We need the jobs in our communities to be economy-boosting jobs – that is, jobs that put more money in people’s pockets to go out and spend in their local economies and in local small businesses. What we don’t need is more ways for our bigger competitors to cut corners.

Creating a new loophole for Big Box stores and other competitors to do away with overtime pay and replace it with comp time won’t boost our local economies. Instead, it will take money out of workers’ pockets and weaken local purchasing power. At the same time, it will undercut responsible small businesses that refuse to take advantage of our employees. This is a double squeeze for local, independent small businesses. It’s a “flexibility” we’ll be better off without.

When our companies are blessed enough to have so much business that we need our employees to work overtime, we're blessed enough to compensate our people accordingly with overtime pay. And, in our local economies, one business's fairly paid employee is another business's paying customer, so when all businesses pay for overtime when they're blessed enough to need it, we all benefit.

The "Working Families Flexibility Act of 2013" not only fails to address small businesses' greatest concern – the need to boost customer demand on Main Street – but in fact threatens to exacerbate it. We urge you to oppose this bill.

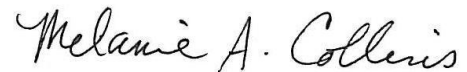
Sincerely, on behalf of the Main Street Alliance Executive Committee,




ReShonda Young
Alpha Express, Inc
Waterloo, Iowa



Jim Houser
Hawthorne Auto Clinic
Portland, Oregon



Melanie A. Collins
Melanie's Home Childcare
Falmouth, Maine



Kelly Conklin
Foley-Waite Associates, Inc
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